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A Small Enterprise Well Kept:

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Mineral and Artesian Water Prospects in Vicinity of Columbus

*Prof. L. H. Davis, Noted Geologist
and Mining Expert Gives Ex-
haustive Description of Wa-
ter and Mineral Resources
of Columbus and
Lower Mimbres
Valley*

[NOTE: The following lengthy article from the pen of Prof. L. H. Davis appeared in the 58th day edition of the El Paso, August 6, and so clearly sets forth the existing conditions regarding the water supply and mineral resources of this particular section that we can not refrain from producing the same in full. Editor]

Columbus, N. M. Aug. 2. We landed here at 11 o'clock p. m. and found our way to the hotel, three blocks from the depot, through inky darkness and a stern night. G. W. Coe, as Reasoner, being to examine only deposits he is interested in west of Columbus. Before sunrise we were up, aroused by the bugle calls and the thunderous noise of the galloping horses of the sixty troopers under command of Lieutenant Edwards and Dr. Bierbower as they dashed like a cyclone across the plain from the Tres Hermanas mountains back to camp, near the railroad depot, the red crossed guerdon or banner waving in the cold, almost frosty morning air as the gallant troopers flew like Comanches past the Hotel Columbus. Then in the twinkling of an eye the horses were unsaddled and, circling the pile of hay, began their feed, and each trooper hiked to the commissary, carrying his saber, and breakfasted with a voracious appetite. We were in a military camp on the western frontier. It recalled the past, a little over thirty years ago, when in a canyon, in the Tres Hermanas mountains, called Morrow's Spring canyon, a tragedy was enacted in which Colonel Morrow and his troopers were surrounded by the terrible Apaches under Victorio Geronimo and nearly annihilated, only a few escaping to tell the tale. A few months afterward John H. Dowling, the well known mining man of El Paso, and a companion camped near this spring in the Granite canyon and saw the skeletons, all that was

left after the feast of the coyotes.

How changed is the scene that now greets the eye. For here, only seventy three miles west of El Paso, four hours' ride, we behold by the light of the rising sun the bright and pretty little city of Columbus, nestling in the middle of the lower Mimbres valley, its two new churches, postoffice, general merchandise stores, United States customs office, livery stable, two story hotel, real estate offices, land office,

public school, newspaper office, (that of the eight page weekly, called the Columbus Courier, Jesse Mitchell, editor), chamber of commerce, restaurants, railroad depot, pumping plant and buildings, barber shop, military post in fact everything usual in a western frontier town, except saloons. As someone has said, the water is so pure, good and oxygenated and exhilarating that it destroys the taste for alcoholic liquid drinks. And, be it known that Columbus is not intrinsically a prohibition or local option town. The exuberant water affords sufficient intoxication. In addition to these urban wonders the eye dwells, enhanced on the beautiful vistas of farm houses and windmills scattered north and south over the level valley till lost in the distance; and to the northeast, twenty miles away, tower the lofty peaks of the Florida mountains, whose "Castle Dome" is 5,000 feet above the plain, and in whose heart is said to be a box canyon, inaccessible, filled with dense forests of cedar of great altitude a forest reserved by Dame Nature from the vandalism of man, that would be worth millions if possible to get out; and ten miles to the north west, the group of Tres Hermanas (three sisters) mountains, whose three peaks can be seen for a hundred miles from several directions, one peak rising 7,151 above the sea level. Looking southward, one sees the old town of Palomas and the lakes of the same name across the line of old Mexico, and to the southwest the mountain range called Boca Brander, with its storied gold placers and copper deposits. These are only a few of the surprises that met our astonished gaze in the early morn, on the very spot where only ten years ago the coyote chased the jack rabbit and the rattlesnake dwelt

with the prairie dog in his hole, and the long ears of the deer and antelope waved in the breeze which now propels the wind mill. WONDERFUL TRANSFORMATION.

What is the cause of this wonderful transformation? It is the presence of an unlimited underground water, the subterranean flow of the Mimbres river that, rising far north among the hills of the Silver City country, flows south till it sinks and runs, a silent flood, under the valley under Deming and on under Columbus and onward into Mexico. Everywhere that a well is sunk or bored this entire distance, water is found at depths of from 8 to 150 feet.

ARTESIAN FLOW PROBABLE

We heard of no deep wells, every one being satisfied with the present supply of water in shallow wells, which rises so near the surface that only nominal power is required to lift it to the gardens and farms. But two wells we visited lead to the belief that artesian water will surely be found. One was John Russell's farm a mile and a half southeast of Columbus, where he sank only eight feet to an inexhaustible supply of water, pure and sweet, which he pumps by windmills and irrigates his orchard and alfalfa patch. South, a few hundred feet, is a mound-like hill on the summit of which a well was sunk, striking water at six feet, which is fully fifty feet above the level of Russell's yard. Russell, by the way, is an El Paso street car conductor. Then we went to the farm of A. O. Bailey, whose beautiful residence and grounds are close by the Mexican boundary. His well is 185 feet deep, but the water rises within three feet of the surface, with a centrifugal pump, driven by a sixteen horse power gasoline engine, 2,000 gallons of water a minute is pumped over his land. Now, Russell's place is fully twenty feet above the lowest part of the plain, and so is Bailey's; and the well on the mound, aforesaid is fifty feet still higher. Surely these are indications of a pressure and of artesian flow of water, when drills shall tap the underground reservoirs. With artesian water developed, Columbus and its fertile valley will blossom like the rose. I am told that nearly every section of the

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Contract Let for Extension of El Paso and Southwestern Railroad

More than \$2,500,000 Will be spent in Building the New Line--Puts Columbus on Transcontinental Line

The contract has been let by the El Paso and Southwestern to Tucson, Arizona, the work to begin within the next ten days. The Mc Arthur Brothers Company, of New York have secured the contract for the grading and expect to establish their offices and begin construction at once.

The proposed line will be sixty-seven miles long and will cost in the neighborhood of \$2,500,000 when completed. It is rumored that this is only another section of the Southwestern line which will in a very short time be built on to the Pacific coast. The new line will mean the shortening of the distance to the western coast some sixty-seven miles.

In an interview with G. F. Hawks, General Superintendent, and Eugene Fox, General Freight and Passenger Agent, last week, the COURIER representative was informed that when the new line was completed the Golden State united trains would run over it through Columbus to the coast. Also much of the freight hauled to western points that is now being carried via Tucuman would be diverted this way. Whereas there are now five crews operating over this line, when the new road is completed the number will be increased to fifteen or twenty.

A further advantage to Columbus will accrue from the fact of it being thrown on a transcontinental line over which heavy passenger traffic will go, giving it a great opportunity in an advancing way.

STATEHOOD WINS!!

Special to the Courier

After an all day debate the senate passed the Flood amendment to the statehood bill, 53 to 18, after voting down the Nelson amendment.